



## Oromia/ Ethiopia: Oromia Paramilitary Commits Torture and Rape

### HRLHA Urgent Action

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October 12, 2015

Harassments and intimidations through arbitrary arrests, beatings, torture and rapes were committed in Ada'a Berga district Western Showa Zone of Oromia Regional State against young Oromo nationals on September 24 and 25, 2015. More than 30 young Oromos were picked up from their homes at night by an Oromia paramilitary force.

According to HRLHA informants in Ada'a Berga, the major targets of this most recent District Administration officials-sponsored violence were mostly young Oromos working in the Dangote Cement Factory and university students who were there to visit their families in the summer break. HRLHA informants from the area confirmed that this particular operation against young Oromo nationals in Ada'a Berga was led by the local government official obbo Tolera Anbasse.

In this incident more than 30 young Oromos (16-25 ages) were arrested; more than 20 were severely beaten by the Oromia Paramilitary and confined in the Ada'a Barga district Police station for three days in violation of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Article 19 (3) *"Persons arrested have the right to be brought before a court within 48 hours of their arrest. Such time shall not include the time reasonably required for the journey from the place of arrest to the court. On appearing before a court, they have the right to be given prompt and specific explanation of the reasons for their arrest due to the alleged crime committed"*.

Although it has been difficult to identify everyone by their names, HRLHA informants have confirmed that the following were among the arrestees:

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|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Rabbirraa Gaarradoo | 8) Abbush Masfiin      | 14) Kaasahun Baqqalaa |
| 2) Fiqaaduu Amaaraa    | 9) Daniel Taarraqany   | 15) Alamuu Ajjabii    |
| 3) Tasfaayee Dalasaa   | 10) Fiqaaduu Tolasaa   | 16) Nuwaay Tasfaayee  |
| 4) Biraanuu siyyumee   | 11) Biraanuu Dabalaa   | 17) Lataa Taaddasaa   |
| 5) Tolasaa Guutamaa    | 12) Katanga Baayyuu    |                       |
| 6) Muluu Balaachoo     | 13) Fayyisaa Raggaanee |                       |
| 7) Alamuu G/mariyam    |                        |                       |

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All arrestees were accused of what the police referred to as “instigating the public against the government”.

When the arrestees were brought to court, one man explained to the court that he had been beaten severely in front of his family members and his wife and his sister age 16 were raped by one of the paramilitary members.

The arrestees showed their scarred backs to the court to indicate the torture inflicted on them by the Paramilitary. Even though the court released all the arrestees on bail the police refused the court order and took them to jail.

The Human Rights League of the Horn of Africa (HRLHA) expresses its deep concern over the safety and well-being of these arrested Oromo nationals and urge the Oromia Regional State Government to make sure that the bail conditions granted by the court are respected and release the arrestees unconditionally. HRLHA also urges the Oromia Regional State to bring the torturers and rapists paramilitary members to justice.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send appeals to the Oromia Regional Government and its concerned officials as swiftly as possible, in English and Afaan Oromo:

- **Muktar Kedir**

Office of Oromiya National Regional State President Office  
Telephone – 0115510455

- **Ibrahim Haji,**

Oromia Police Commissioner

Office Near to LANCIA & Co.

Tel. (251) 114 702 144 or 011-416 40 22 Or 011-416 22 61

Email: [info@oromiapolice.gov.et](mailto:info@oromiapolice.gov.et)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia